PRESS RELEASE

LAYTON DOCTOR PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTION OF OXYCODONE; FACES UP TO 20 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

LAYTON -- Dr. Paul Ray Taylor, 64, of Layton pleaded guilty to one count of distribution of oxycodone in federal court Friday morning, admitting that between June 7 and Oct. 30, 2007, he provided oxycodone prescriptions to individuals with whom he did not have a legitimate doctor-patient relationship or with whom he did not conduct appropriate medical examinations.

U.S. District Judge Clark Waddoups set sentencing in the case for April 1, 2009 at 3 p.m. Taylor faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a $1 million fine. Judge Waddoups also denied a motion for Taylor to be released from custody.

In a plea agreement reached with the U.S. Attorney's Office, Taylor admitted that although he was a physician licensed to prescribe controlled substances and not required to conduct a comprehensive medical examination of a patient each time he prescribed opiates, he acted outside the scope of legitimate medical practice while providing some prescriptions.

Federal prosecutors agreed to dismiss a second count in the indictment charging Taylor with distribution of hydrocodone as a part of the plea agreement and said they would not present a superseding indictment to the grand jury charging Taylor in the overdose deaths of patients identified during the course of the case investigation. However, federal prosecutors intend to argue at sentencing that the conduct should be factored into calculating his sentence.

The investigation of the federal case started with information provided to the Utah Department of Professional Licensing, including reports that Taylor was prescribing medication out of his vehicle at a time he was not associated with a clinic or medical facility.

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